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FLOOR DEBATE

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Resources Committee has worked hard on livestock waste facilities, but it seems like the playing field keeps changing as we have different federal regulations coming down. And what we're saying, if you're an existing livestock facility and you need to (inaudible) a livestock facility, a waste facility, that the county cannot shut you down, as long as your application does not increase the capacity of your facility more than 10 percent, or 500 animal units. It's very expensive to put these livestock waste facilities in. It's not something our livestock producers want to do. One of the things we heard at an interim study hearing at West Point this summer was that, if I have to put in these livestock waste facilities, then I've probably got to expand, because I can't justify spending \$100,000, \$200,000, \$300,000 to put in this livestock facility, and my facility would stay the same size. Unfortunately, I think we do have quite a few smaller operations are going to quit, rather than trying to comply. And the livestock industry is important to this state. We're not doing this for new operations; we're doing this for existing operations, and they do have to go get new NPDES permits and say they...so they have to go through the county zoning process. And we're saying as long as their expansion does not exceed 500 animal units or 10 percent, the county has to grant the permit. Now if we don't pass this bill, we have a lot of livestock facilities in this state that face the possibility of an uncertain county situation, could shut them down. And with all the livestock we have in the state, with all the feedstock we have in the state, one of the things we need to do is expand our livestock operations, not make them smaller. I think the expansion is reasonable, not excessive. I think the committee has worked hard on this; it's a very important issue for the state, and I ask for your consideration.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. You've heard the opening on AM2387 to LB 975. Mr. Clerk, motion, please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler would move to amend the Schrock amendment. This is AM2399. (Legislative Journal page 747.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Beutler, to open on AM2399.